Chairperson

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Getting to know the Office of the Chair

Voters give Commission Chairperson added powers



Thanks to voter-approved changes to the Miami-Dade County charter in September 2002, the Office of the Chair now heads the County's legislative body.

With its new powers, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners also made history by electing Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler as the first African-American woman to serve as its chairperson under the form of government whereby the legislative branch is stronger and independent of the Mayor's office.

As chairperson, Commissioner Carey-Shuler is in charge of the legislative body of Miami-Dade County government. She and her peers on the Commission are responsible for policy and legislative affairs and approval of the \$5 billion budget. All legislative proposals must go through her legislative body to become law.

The chairperson was elected to a twoyear term as the Board's Chief Presiding Officer and endowed with the integral power to appoint the chair, vice-chair and members of all commission committees, including standing, ad hoc and sub-committees.

Commissioner Carey-Shuler also has the authority and power to designate and supervise all persons serving as employees of the Chair's office, employees of the Office of Legislative Analysis, the newly created Office of the Auditor and support staff.

The Office of the Chair has the added power to issue subpoenas, subpoenas duces tecum. Chairwoman Carey-Shuler, who has provided nearly three decades of public service to South Florida, has made it her mission to streamline the work of the county commission through the expanded role of the Chair.

Since her election, she has appointed six commissioners to head standing committees, and four commissioners to head subcommittees. By establishing six standing committees and setting the membership at six, all commissioners have the opportunity to serve as chairs or vice chairs of a committee.

Another key change the Chairwoman made was to shift public hearings to the committee level, giving citizens more time to publicly address legislative items before the proposals reach the full board for a vote. In this way, citizens can be more intimately involved in the legislative process and assured that their views will be heard on key initiatives.

Committee Chairs:

- Budget & Finance: Commissioner Jimmy Morales
- Economic Development & Human Services: Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle
- Environment & Government Operations: Commissioner Natacha Seijas
- Public Safety: Commissioner Joe A. Martinez
- Recreation & Cultural Affairs: Commissioner Javier D. Souto
- Transportation: Commissioner Dennis Moss

Sub-Committee Chairs:

- Elections: Commissioner Betty T. Ferguson
- Incorporation & Annexation: Commissioner José "Pepe" Diaz
- Public Transportation Management: Commissioner Bruno Barreiro
- Procurement Management Policy: Commissioner Rebeca Sosa

Commissioner Barbara Carey-Shuler Celebrates One-Year Anniversary as Chairperson



October 22, 2003 marks the one-year anniversary of Commissioner Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler's election as Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners.

As part of her commitment to county residents, Chairwoman Carey-Shuler has already completed some of her goals for her two-year term; excellent progress has been made on many legislative fronts in the past fiscal year. The Office of the Chair is proud to highlight the legislative achievements accomplished on their behalf:

- Empanelled the Board to act as the Elections Oversight
 Committee that recommended reforms in the Elections
 Department. As a result, subsequent elections have proceeded without incident.
- Was instrumental in creating the "Miami-Dade County Kid Care Outreach Coalition," which advocates awareness and participation in low-cost insurance program for children.

- Successfully sponsored an ordinance that later was approved by the voters, making the Board of County Commissioners the chief legislative body of the County. Voters also approved changes to the county charter on September 10, 2002, allowing the Board to establish its own committees, and the Commission chairperson to appoint committee and sub-committee chairs.
- Sponsored a resolution creating the Aviation Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of proposing an airport authority ordinance that would evaluate how Miami International Airport is currently governed and recommend to the Board of County Commissioners a proposed airport authority ordinance.
- Co-sponsored a proposal to create an Office of Countywide Healthcare Planning that would provide the framework for the delivery of countywide healthcare services.

"Leadership to me has been about teamwork. I thank my colleagues and Miami-Dade County staff. I am proud of the teamwork by the members of the Board of County Commissioners in the past year. We have achieved many goals because of this and have worked in an environment whereby we have shown respect and appreciation for each other. We have shared in our accomplishments and successes with an incredible amount of dignity in the process."



The Office of the Chair goes online www.officeofthechair.com

Speak Up!

Now you can go online to share your views and concerns directly with the County's Chairperson.

"I am very excited to be a part of this new era in County government because great things are starting to happen. This website responds to the voices of change by bringing government right into the living room or office of County residents," the Chairwoman said.

The newly developed site from the Office of the Chair aims to:

- Better understand public opinion and argument about policy or legislation
- Measure and better understand public sentiment on a range of issues through online polls, message boards and e-mail newsletters
- Educate citizens about communicating with elected officials and how to better understand the legislative process

- Facilitate public debate on complex issues
- Solicit timely input from the community
- Encourage civic participation in the legislative process
- Enhance service to the public our "virtual office" provides educational information and constituent services faster, more comprehensively, and to greater numbers of people than ever before

By logging on, County residents will be able to:

- Contact and interact with the Chairwoman by voicing their concerns and points of view
- Read the latest legislative bills of a particular commissioner in a concise manner
- Participate and engage in the legislative process by registering their opinions on-line in a quick and easy way
- Change the way County government works by moving toward more citizen involvement, e.g., e-mail, newsgroups, message board
- Access the Chair's radio and video broadcasts as well as media releases

"I ask that you spread the word to your colleagues, neighbors, friends and family about 'your' web-site," she said. "Those who do not have Internet access are still encouraged to communicate with us via their churches, public libraries, community leaders and organizations or simply go to your nearest community organization with online access."

"Speak up, I will listen and respond," she said.





County Commissioners

The Board of County Commissioners has made significant gains and passed important legislation since Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler was elected chairperson. The following is a sampling of the key legislation of various commissioners.



Commissioner Bruno A. Barreiro

• Introduced the measure to create the Citizen's I n d e p e n d e n t

Transportation Trust (CITT) which was passed by the commission and approved by voters on September 10, 2002. The CITT oversees the Transportation Tax projects and initiatives.



Commissioner José "Pepe" Diaz

• Successfully sponsored an ordinance authorizing the creation of the City

of Doral.

- Steered through a resolution approving a lease agreement for the Dorothy Walker Bush Museum at the Hollywood Railroad Station Museum.
- Helped steer through the commission the creation of the Jay Malina International Trade Consortium, which is charged with representing Miami-Dade County's international trade interests and advocating for the international trade community at the local, state and federal levels.
- Introduced a resolution that was approved by the Board, authorizing execution of a memorandum of understanding between the County and the cities of Miami, Coral Springs and Miami Beach to prepare for the November 2003 Free Trade of the Americas (FTAA) Ministerial meeting and VIII Americas Business Forum. Miami-Dade County is seeking to be the location of the permanent seat of The Secretariat of the FTAA.



Commissioner Betty T. Ferguson

- Sponsored the ordinance creating the City of Miami Gardens.
- Sponsored a resolution urging the United States Congress and Florida Legislature to appropriate funds for the Carol City Community Center.
- Helped ensure the City of Opa-Locka would have a successful Arabian Nights Festival by sponsoring a resolution to provide the city with inkind county services for the event.
- Sponsored the resolution directing the County Manager to develop a program providing grants to qualified municipal retail water and sewer customers.



Commissioner Sally A. Heyman

• Proposed legislation to expedite and start the renovation of Haulover

Beach. She also proposed legislation to update and computerize the County Advisory Boards.

• Both Commissioners Sally A. Heyman and Jimmy L. Morales introduced legislation for the creation of the Miami-Dade Sports Commission, which will promote, attract and solicit adult and youth amateur sports from throughout the United States and within Miami-Dade County. The measure was approved by the full Commission on April 8, 2003.











Commissioners Jimmy L. Morales, Natacha Seijas, Sally A. Heyman, Rebeca Sosa, and Sen. Javier D. Souto

• Sponsored the legislation creating the Office of the Commission Auditor, as approved by the voters on September 10, 2002. On May 6, 2003, the Board of County Commissioners approved an allocation of up to \$40,000 for recruitment and relocation expenses for the Commission Auditor position.



Commissioners Jimmy L. Morales

• Commissioner Morales successfully introduced legislation creating local

forums for reviewing ethics violations and addressing public concern regarding public officials.

• Commissioner Morales sponsored a successful resolution implementing an apprenticeship program for bus mechanics and heavy-duty mechanics. This program would hire qualified persons that have completed a threesemester program at one of the two technical schools affiliated with Miami-Dade County Public Schools as trainees in the Miami-Dade Transit department at a rate above the living wage. Once the program is completed,

in action!





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participants would become regular county employees.



Commissioner Joe A. Martinez

• Along with Commissioner Sally Heyman co-sponsored a

resolution approving a planning initiative to explore the feasibility of locating a homeland security interagency complex near the Homestead Air Reserve Station.

- Sponsored a resolution urging State of Florida officials to comply with all applicable requirements and deadlines to receive funds from the federal government under the Help America Vote Act of 2002. The resolution also urges State of Florida officials to continue to coordinate with Miami-Dade officials regarding the status of such funding and the best way to use the money to help Miami-Dade County.
- Introduced legislation ensuring that veterans of military operations in Iraq would receive veteran's preferences in county hiring.



Commissioner Dennis C. Moss

• Introduced the successful measure to abolish the Fire Board.

The measure was approved by voters in September 10, 2002. The Commission's actions made for the smooth transfer of duties and responsibilities of the Fire Board to the Board of County Commissioners.

• Successfully sponsored a resolution urging the governor and the state legislature to modify the Florida Comprehensive Assessment test.



Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle

• Sponsored a resolution directing the county manager to establish a

funding source for a program to train residents in homeland security.

- Proposed the ordinance to restore right of way to pre-existing condition.
- Sponsored an ordinance establishing the Community Workforce Program.
- Was the key commissioner to push for changes in the County's HOPE VI federally-funded program.



Commissioner Katy Sorenson

• Sponsored the ordinance revising the laws relating to lobbyists

in County Hall. The ordinance requires lobbyists to register annually and pay the county an annual fee to lobby. The legislation also suspends lobbyists who fail to file expenditure reports by September of each year.

- Sponsored the ordinance creating the Naranja Lakes Redevelopment Agency.
- Sponsored legislation creating the South Miami-Dade Development Agency.



Commissioner Rebeca Sosa

• Proposed a resolution establishing a motorcycle emergency response team as a pilot program. The resolution also allowed the

county to accept the donation of 10 BMW motorcycles for the program.

• Commissioners Rebeca Sosa and José "Pepe" Diaz successfully steered legislation through the commission to oversee and expedite the progress of the canal dredging, road restoration and drainage projects.

• Commissioner Rebeca Sosa sponsored an ordinance amending section 2-8.1 of the code of Miami-Dade County to increase the county manager's delegated authority to advertise for bids, award and reject bids or proposals for the purchase of up to one million dollars worth of supplies, materials or services (other than professional services) without the need for prior commission approval.



Commissioner Javier D. Souto

• Commissioner Souto sponsored legislation consolidating all laws

relating to the maintenance of the exterior of shopping centers, strip malls, restaurants, gas stations and other commercial properties in response to frequent complaints from local businesses.

• In April 2003, the Board of County Commissioners adopted an ordinance by Commissioner Souto that provides the County Manager, as well as the County Commissioners, with the tools to reduce government waste through a detailed budget analysis of all County expenditures by program, agency and Department.



Commissioner Natacha Seijas

• Was the key legislator in the passing of the consent decree between

Florida's Department of Environmental Protection and the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Management District.



Communicating with your Commissioner

To communicate effectively with a Commissioner or with another elected official, it is important to have some knowledge of key staff positions for the commissioners. Staffers are the liaison to your elected official and most of the time it is better to approach them first for advice and guidance on steps to follow. Following is a list of the most common staff positions:

- The **Chief of Staff** is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the commissioner's office and the overall office budget.
- The Legislative Director is usually responsible for monitoring and managing many of the legislative activities of the Commissioner's office, including the drafting and co-sponsorship of legislation. The Legislative Director is generally responsible for tracking pending legislation and keeping the Commissioner apprised of constituent interests and opinions.





- The Media and Public Relations Director generally acts in many ways as a press secretary and liaison between the elected official, media organizations and the public. He/She is usually responsible for promoting the Commissioner's positions and perspectives to the media, constituencies and the general public. A media and public relations director also assists the Commissioner with public statements and is responsible for drafting and implementing overall media strategies.
- The **Director of Public Affairs** helps constituents resolve problems with federal agencies and other governmental entities. He/She is the liaison between the Commissioner and District constituents.
- The Executive Secretary/Scheduler is responsible for allocating time for the elected official among the many demands that arise from legislative responsibilities, staff requirements, and constituent requests. Scheduling travel, as meetings with constituents or other groups is typically part of the executive secretary's duties as well.
- Other titles used in an elected official's office include Office Manager, Receptionist, Speech Writers, Legal Assistants and so on.

Now you know, for best results, the next time you want to talk to a Commissioner, the first stop should be at the door of a staff member in charge of your area of concern.

Chairperson Carey-Shuler participates in music hall groundbreaking ceremony



This summer, Chairwoman Dr. The African Cultural Arts Center, Barbara Carey-Shuler joined community leaders and members of the Miami-Dade County staff at the official groundbreaking ceremony for the long-awaited music hall at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22 Avenue, in Miami.

formerly known as the Model City Cultural Arts Center, was established in 1975 as Miami's first dedicated cultural arts learning space. The center has become an institution with a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary

arts program. The center currently has 200 children attending daily music classes. This new facility will provide much-needed space for young musicians to practice.

"This center will provide the proper space for young people to learn, develop their scholarship-winning talents and let their creative energies free," said Chairwoman Carey-Shuler. "I look forward to attending future productions at this new facility."

This 5,065-square-foot facility will house the rapidly expanding music program at the center. It will include a tiered orchestra/choral area, soundproof practice rooms, teacher's offices, instrument storage rooms, sound and lighting capabilities and restrooms. Construction is expected to be completed by July 2004.

Grand Plan for the Florida Grand Opera

Chairwoman Carey-Shuler also participated this summer in the groundbreaking ceremony of the Florida Grand Opera's Headquarters next door to the Performing Arts Center. In the building will be a 500-seat performance space as well as two rehearsal halls and a rooftop terrace.





Chairwoman spearheads creation of the new office of countywide healthcare planning

A major shift of power affecting the healthcare of more than half a million residents took place last September, when Chairwoman Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler presented to the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners an ordinance creating the Office of Countywide Healthcare Planning.

The comprehensive legislation, spearheaded by Chairwoman Carey-Shuler authorizes the new office to represent the healthcare interests of all Miami-Dade residents, a task formerly carried out by the Public Health Trust.

"Having the BCC responsible for countywide healthcare planning is an important measure that we hope will improve the services provided to our residents and help establish stronger partnerships with professional healthcare providers," said Chairwoman Carey-Shuler. "The BCC is capable and should be held accountable for developing healthcare policies that ultimately affect all of residents of Miami-Dade County because our procedures are transparent and we should seek input from the public and private providers."

guidance of the Board of County Commissioners is comprised of 13 Commissioners, the new Office of Countywide Healthcare Planning will the diversity and unique demographics provide hospitals with uniform health of one of Florida's largest and welfare programs for all residents metropolitan areas. within Miami-Dade. The legislation enables the Board of County The Board of County Commissioners Commissioners to have more is responsible for developing the involvement in establishing policies related to healthcare issues across the county.

Additionally, residents will have the opportunity to get more involved with the Trust, as all future Trust meetings will be broadcast.

"The new changes are expected to streamline the delivery of healthcare services to the county's residents," said Chairwoman Carey-Shuler.

MANN



Did you know that...

The ordinance states that under the The Miami-Dade Board of County single-member districts that reflect

> framework for the promulgation of legislative and policy priorities for Miami-Dade County to ensure accountability, transparency and efficiency.

> The Board has the task of responding to the burgeoning and multi-faceted delivery of essential public services, which includes planning and zoning, fiscal determinations, and ensuring citizen participation and interaction at every level of local government.

> Currently, the Board operates very similarly to the state and federal governments as debate on issues occurs at the committee level, and most legislative proposals must wind their way through the committee process before being decided upon by the full commission.

> As a truly independent body, the commission has clearly defined powers that will allow it to better implement policies to improve the quality of life and enhance the services provided to residents of Miami-Dade County.



Planning your meeting with an elected official

A personal visit with an elected official and/or their staff should be prepared like a job interview. The meeting could have a positive impact if you follow some basic tips:

Plan Carefully: Confirm the meeting the day before. Have a clear understanding of the purpose of your visit and what you would like to achieve. Be prepared to provide information and materials that support your position on an issue. It is important to share your perspective as a constituent/community member, leader, and so on. Outline the impact associated with a particular issue or piece of legislation.

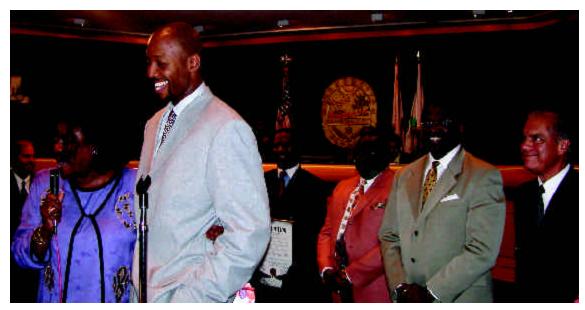
Arrive on Time: Be on time – five to ten minutes before the meeting is the norm. Also, be patient and flexible. An elected official's schedule is usually very crowded and it is not uncommon for an elected official to be late, or have a meeting interrupted. Always show respect and your good spirit.

Be prepared: Be ready to answer questions or provide additional information on the given topic. Be concise, to the point, and bring some printed material, if needed, to support your point.

The power of a "Thank Your Letter"; follow up the meeting with a "thank you" letter. Outline the main points of your discussion and forward any additional information and materials requested.

Good Luck!

Chairwoman honors former Heat center, philanthropist Alonzo Mourning



charity events in Florida, raising \$2.6 million for various c h a r i t a b l e organizations. His signature event, "Zo's Summer Groove," annually brings basketball greats and other celebrities to Miami for a weekend to celebrate the spirit and culture of South Florida.

Calling him an asset to the community and a role model, Chairwoman Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler recently honored former Miami Heat center Alonzo Mourning.

Joined by other County Commissioners, the chairwoman thanked Mourning for his dedication to improving the lives of the county's youth through his philanthropic Proceeds from the 2003 Summer foundation such as the financing of the Overtown Youth Center--a stateof-the-art, multi-million dollar youth Men of South Florida, and the facility, that serves hundreds of children Overtown Youth Center. from the historic Overtown neighborhood.

For the past six summers, Mourning Miami Heat for the New Jersey Nets. has hosted one of the biggest

Groove were donated to the Children's Home Society of Florida, 100 Black

Mourning announced earlier this summer that he would be leaving the



Commissioner Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D.

Office of the Chair Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners

For additional information, please visit us online at www.officeof the chair.com or call 305-375-5393.

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

Airport Information 305-876-7000 305-884-1101 Animal Care & Control 305-375-5678 Auto Tags 305-375-5633 Benefits 305-375-2500 **Building Permits** Code Enforcement/Graffiti 24 Hour Hotline 305-375-3461

Consumer Protection Hotline

305-375-3677 305-556-8106 County Store 305-275-1155 Courts

Dade County Federal Credit Union

305-471-5080 Emergency Assistance (food vouchers and utility bills) 305-347-4640 Emergency Management/Disaster 305-469-5400

Employee Relations Department 305-375-5099

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 7770-220-5200 Fire Rescue Services 786-331-5000 Garbage/Trash Collection 305-594-1500 Head Start Program (childcare)

305-347-4622 305-374-4099 Homestead Exemption Illegal Dumping Prevention 305-471-8477 Inspector General's Office 305-579-2593

305-375-4288

Jackson Memoria Hospital (24 hours) 305-585-6000 305-545-4040 305-375-2665 Jail (Main) Library (Main)

Meals on Wheels 305-347-4650 Mosquito Control 305-592-1186

Park & Recreation Department (Main number)

305-755-7800 305-275-1133 Parking Ticket's Police Department 305-476-5423 305-633-3100

305-375-5633 Retirement

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